be a bait for the old pike. I see no reason in the law of nature, but I may snap at him. Let time shape, and there an end.

[Exit.

ACT IV. SCENE I.

A Forest in Yorkshire.

Enter the Archbishop of YORK, MOWBRAY, HASTINGS, and Others.

ARCH. What is this forest call'd ?

yett he had found out the kind you are come of, and your natural affections and apetis: and so, like a skillful man, hath given you natural ficicke, which is the onlie meanes to preserve the radicall hmrs : and thus I conclude: My sow is healthfull, my divill's luckie, myself is happie, and needs no more than your blessing, which is my trew *Philosophers stone,* upon which I build as upon a rocke:

" Your Majesties most humble slave and doge
"
Stinie."

The following passage in Churchyard's Commendation to them that can make Gold, &c. 1590, will sufficiently prove that the Elixir was supposed to be a stone before the time of Butler:

«--------much matter may you read
[e] Of this rich art that thousands hold full deere :
* Remundus too, that long Hud heere indeede,
[g] Wrate sundry workes, as well doth yet appeare,
[e] Of *stone* for gold, and shewed plaine and cleere,
[4] A *stone* for health. Arnolde wrate of the same,
[6] And many more that were too long to name."

Again, in the Dedication of The Metamorphosis of Pigmalion's Image and certaine Satyres, 1598 :

** Or like that rare and rich *Elixar stone,*
[<c] Can turne to gold leaden invention."

STEEVENS.

I think Dr. Johnson's explanation of this passage is the true one : [**e] I will make him of *twice* the value of the philosopher's stone." MALONE.

[8] — if the young dace —] That is, if the pike may prey upon the dace, if it be the law of nature that the stronger may seize upon the weaker. Falstaff may> with great propriety, devour Shallow. JOHNSON.